

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY AIRCRAFT PRIORITY

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FOLLOWING REPEAT VIENTIANE 3654 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BANGKOK
CANBERRA PARIS AND CINCPAC 23 MAY 75

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 3654

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

CANBERRA FRO ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, EAID, LA, US

SUBJECT: DEMAND OF DEMONSTRATORS AS REPORTED BY PL MINISTER
SOTH PHETRASY

REF: VIENTIANE 3649

1. JUST HAD CONVERSATION WITH MINISTER SOTH PHETRASY
ON HIS AFTERNOON'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE DEMONSTRATORS
AT THE USAID COMPOUND. ACCORDING TO SOTH, THE DEMONSTRA-
TORS MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. THEY AGREE WITH THE DISSOLUTION OF USAID, THE
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DEPARTURE OF USAID PERSONNEL, AND THE TURNOVER OF USAID

MATERIEL TO THE GOVERNMENT;

B. HOWEVER, THEY HAVE SET DEMANDS ON HOW TO PROCEED:

(1) THEY WANT A LETTER FROM THE EMBASSY STATING IN WRITING THAT THE USG IS PREPARED TO DISSOLVE THE USAID MISSION, WITHDRAW PERSONNEL AND TURNOVER MATERIEL TO THE GOVERNMENT;

(2) DURING THE PERIOD OF DISSOLUTION, THEY AGREE ON ALLOWING ONLY CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF U.S. PERSONNEL TO GO BACK TO WORK, NOTABLY THOSE IN CHARGE OF MATERIEL AND ACCOUNTANTS. THEY DO NOT AGREE ON ALLOWING PERSONNEL OF OTHER SERVICES NOR DO THEY AGREE ON ALLOWING THE MILITARY BACK IN THEIR BUILDING;

(3) DURING THIS PERIOD THEY ALSO DEMAND THAT A NUMBER OF THEIR REPRESENTATIVES REMAIN IN THE COMPOUND TO ENSURE SECURITY AND THAT OUTSIDE GUARD BE MAINTAINED BY THE JOINT POLICE AND THE TAPS GUARD BE DISMISSED;

(4) DEMONSTRATORS ALSO AGREE TO OUR PROPOSAL ON SENDING AMERICAN TEAMS TO TERMINATE PROVINCIAL OFFICES UNDER THE PROTECTION OF JCCIA TEAMS AND ONE OR TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEMONSTRATORS. A CEREMONY TO TURN OVER EQUIPMENT TO PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES WOULD BE HELD AT EACH PLACE.

(5) FINALLY, DEMONSTRATORS CONGRATULATED TWO GOVERNMENTS ON DECISIONS MADE AND LOOK FORWARD TO NEGOTIATIONS ON AID WHICH WOULD CREATE NEW ATMOSPHERE.

2. I TOLD SOTH THAT WE WERE ACCREDITED TO THE PGNU AND NOT TO DEMONSTRATORS AND THEREFORE FOUND IT VERY DIFFICULT TO PROCEED WITH THIS MANNER OF NEGOTIATING. SINCE POLICY SEEMED TO BE DICTATED BY DEMONSTRATORS, I SUGGESTED THAT A MEETING BE ARRANGED WITH HIMSELF, MINFONAFF PHOUMI VONGVICHIT, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEMONSTRATORS, ACTING USAID DIRECTOR RAMSEY AND MYSELF. WHILE I THOUGHT WE COULD AGREE TO CERTAIN DEMANDS, OTHERS WERE UNACCEPTABLE; LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOTABLY, MAINTAINING ANY DEMONSTRATORS ON THE COMPOUND, LIMITING THE NUMBER OF USAID PERSONNEL WHO COULD GO BACK TO WORK, PROHIBITING ACCREDITED MILITARY ATTACHES FROM GOING TO THEIR OFFICES. I SAW NO DIFFICULTY IN GIVING THE GOVERNMENT A STATEMENT IN WRITING ON OUR DECISION TO TERMINATE USAID MISSION AND WITHDRAW PERSONNEL.

3. COMMENT: WHILE WE DO NOT WANT TO BE OVERLY OPTIMISTIC,

WE SENSE A DEGREE OF THAW IN THE ATMOSPHERE. THE FIRST
LARGE GROUP OF AMERICAN FAMILIES LEFT KM 6 HOUSING COMPLEX
AND WENT TO THE AIRPORT WITHOUT INCIDENT. AT THE AIRPORT
A NUMBER OF US HAD OCCASION TO DISCUSS SITUATION IN RATHER
FREE FASHION WITH THE STUDENT LEADERS. WE OFFERED TO
MEET WITH THEM WHENEVER, WHEREVER THEY WOULD LIKE. WE
TOLD THEM THAT THERE SEEMED TO BE A CONSIDERABLE DEGREE
OF MISINFORMATION ABOUT AND IT WAS BETTER TO DISCUSS
THE SITUATION THAN PRODUCE THE KIND OF CONFRONTATION
WE HAD EXPERIENCED IN LAST FEW DAYS. STUDENTS SEEMED
RECEPTIVE. ENTRY AND EXIT OF KM 6 HOUSING COMPLEX
SEEMED TO BE FREE. SOTH WAS UNUSUALLY CORDIAL ON THE
TELEPHONE AND PHOUMI, WITH UNUSUAL ALACRITY, SENT
LETTER, REPORTED REFTEL, EXPRESSING SATISFACTION OF
DECISION TO TERMINATE USAID AND URGING RAPID NEGOTIATIONS.
CHAPMAN

UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

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